



# ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH | MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

### Pastoral Staff

Rev. Bernard Vellozo, Pastor  
Deacon Don Roberts  
Deacon Richard Te  
Melinda Mayo, Parish Secretary  
Joan Cabri, Parish Bookkeeper

### New Parishioners

Welcome to our parish family! Please register by filling out a form available at the back of the church or online.

### Sacrament of Baptism

The desire for Baptism for a child must be accompanied by a very serious commitment to raise the child within the Catholic faith community and to educate the child in the truths of the church. An essential part of the commitment is regular attendance at Sunday Mass. Baptisms are held on the 4th Sunday of every month. Please contact the parish office for a Baptismal package.

### Sacrament of Matrimony

Couples planning to be married should contact the parish one year in advance. They must also attend a Marriage Preparation Course prior to entering marriage. If either party has previously gone through any form of civil divorce or religious marriage with another person, please notify the priest as soon as possible as the priest is not permitted to set a wedding date until the Bishop's Office has been contacted.

### Sacrament of the Sick

In this Sacrament we celebrate Christ's healing presence among us today. If you, a relative or friend, require this Sacrament at home or nursing home, please call the parish office. For your spiritual needs during a hospital stay, the Archdiocese of Toronto has assigned a full time Roman Catholic Chaplain to each of the two Mississauga hospitals. For the Chaplain, speak to the Nurses' Desk or call the Spiritual Care Office.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Every Saturday: 4:00 PM - 4:45 PM  
Every 2nd & 4th Friday: 7:30 PM  
(or by appointment)

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
Closed Daily: 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

### MASS

Sunday Eucharist  
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM (fulfills the Sunday obligation)  
Sunday: 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM & 12:00 NOON  
*Children's Liturgy at: 10:00 a.m. Mass*  
  
*Weekday Eucharist*  
Mondays / Wednesdays / Fridays 7:00 PM  
Tuesdays / Thursdays 8:00 AM

### DEVOTIONS

*Holy Hour*  
Fridays (excluding holidays) 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM  
  
*Our Lady of Perpetual Help Rosary* Wednesday during Mass  
Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 6:40  
  
*Divine Mercy*  
Fridays (excluding holidays) 3:00 PM

### PARISH LIFE

Charismatic Prayer Goup 905-822-8132  
Legion of Mary (Wed 7:30 PM) 905-822-8132  
Knights of Columbus (Mike Genua) 416-804-3457  
Ministry of Consolation & Hope 905-822-8132 ext. 3  
RCIA 905-822-8132 ext. 4  
St. Vincent de Paul 905-822-8132 ext. 5  
Catholic Cemeteries 416-733-8544

### SCHOOLS

St. Francis of Assisi 905-822-3183  
St. Margaret of Scotland 905-820-5115  
Christ the King 905-569-0220

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 15, 2019

## "Prepare the way of the Lord"

### Joy



Why did Jesus praise John the Baptist as the greatest person born of a woman and then in the same breath say that those who enter God's kingdom will be greater than John? John is the last and greatest of the prophets of the old covenant. He fulfilled the essential task of all the prophets - to be fingers pointing to Jesus Christ, God's Anointed Son and Messiah. John saw from a distant what Jesus would accomplish through his death on the cross - our redemption from bondage to sin and death. When King Herod tried to silence John by throwing him into prison, John sent his disciples to Jesus after John had heard the reports about Jesus performing signs and wonders and speaking to people about the coming of God's kingdom. John wanted his disciples to hear and see firsthand what Jesus was doing to bring the kingdom of God to those who were receptive and ready to receive his message.

Jesus confirmed for John that the miracles and healings which he performed were in direct fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies announced by Isaiah some 700 years previously. Isaiah had prophesied that when the Messiah would come to save his people he would "open the eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf, the lame would leap, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy" (Isaiah 35:5). Jesus' miracles are a demonstration of the power of God's kingdom at work in the midst of his people.

When Jesus had answered the disciples of John, he in turn asked them a question "Why did you go out in the wilderness to see John the Baptist?" "Did you go because you were hungry for the word of the Lord?" Jesus said that John was more than a spokesman for God. John was the faithful witness and friend of the bridegroom who pointed others to the coming of the Messiah in their midst. Jesus contrasted John with the image of a reed shaken by the wind. Unlike a reed which is weak and spineless and can be easily crushed or bruised, John stood as a pillar of strength and truth in the face of opposition and persecution. No demonic force could weaken or crush John in his unswerving trust in God and his word.

Jesus knew that what the Father in heaven had sent him to accomplish for our sake would supersede all that the prophets had done and foreseen in the past. Jesus' atoning death on the cross cancels the debt of our sins and sets us free to live as citizens of his kingdom. He gives us pardon, healing, and abundant life through his Holy Spirit, and the promise of unending joy with him in his everlasting kingdom.

John the Baptist paid the ultimate sacrifice of his life for speaking God's word and preparing the way for Jesus the Lord and Saviour of the world. The Lord Jesus offers us the same assurance of faith and the strength to stand against every force that would try to rob us of our conviction and courage to live and proclaim the good news of God's kingdom. Do you know the joy, strength, and power which Jesus gives to everyone who puts their trust in him and the power of the Holy Spirit? Ask the Lord Jesus to increase your faith and hope in his promises for you.

*"Lord Jesus, strengthen my trust in your word and my hope in the saving power of your kingdom. Free me from everything that would hold me back from pursuing your kingdom and your will for my life."*

### HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION



In Canada, there are two Holy Days of Obligation other than the Sundays of the year: Christmas and January 1<sup>st</sup>, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. To fulfill our duty to God, we must attend the Solemnities of the Incarnation of the Lord (Christmas) and the Holy Mother of God (January 1<sup>st</sup>).

### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

**Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24**  
5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25**  
10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon

**Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God**  
(Holy Day of Obligation)

**Tuesday, December 31, 2019** – 5:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, January 1, 2020** – 10:00 a.m. and  
12:00 noon

## Mass Intentions for the Week

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 16 – 7:00 P.M.**

Intention Available

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17 – 8:00 A.M.**

Intention Available

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18 – 7:00 P.M.**

S.I. Maikel Michriky

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19 – 8:00 A.M.**

In reparation for offenses committed against the Most Holy Eucharist.

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20 – 7:00 P.M.**

S.I. Maikel Michriky

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21 – 5:00 P.M.**

+ Bill Kovalchuk

+ Jim and Louise Killackey

+ Tom Simpson

### **SUNDAY, DEC. 22 – 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**8:30 A.M.** + Peter Kinh Tran

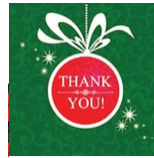
**10:00 A.M.** + Ross Hotchkiss

+ Carmel Fleming

+ Paul Castro

**12:00 P.M.** S.I. Parish Community

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul would like to sincerely thank you for your incredible generosity to their Christmas collection for those in need at Christmas. With your help the Society will be able to help many local families have a Merry Christmas this year.

## THANK YOU!



Thank you to all who purchased Poinsettias from the Knights of Columbus. Your support helped us to exceed our 2019 fundraiser project target.

## A FAREWELL

Our Pastor, Father Bernard Vellozo, is leaving Saint Francis of Assisi on January 1, 2020. A farewell reception will be held Sunday, December 29th following the noon Mass. Parishioners are invited to contribute to a parting gift for Father. Volunteers will be at the doors of the Church after all weekend Masses to collect your cash donations, farewell messages and a count of the number of guests. Please let us know if you plan to attend. For more information, please contact Kathy Valant (905) 823-1693.

## PARKING REGULATIONS

During the Christmas Season, the church typically experiences an increase in attendance. Parishioners are reminded to observe all parking regulations when attending St. Francis of Assisi church. The parish will not be responsible for any tickets received for parking violations.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If your home address or telephone number has changed, please send us an email at [office@st-francisofassisi.ca](mailto:office@st-francisofassisi.ca).

## THE LEGEND OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE



An evergreen sprang from the centre of an oak cut down by St. Boniface. The oak symbolized paganism and its death brought an end to the old ways. The new tree was "the sign of endless life, for its leaves are evergreen". St. Boniface took this as a sign of the Christian faith. The Christmas tree reminds us of the tree planted in the centre of Eden and the tree of the Cross.

## 2020 OFFERTORY ENVELOPE BOXES



Offertory envelope boxes for 2020 are now available at the back of the church. Please take any box and **PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS** on the first 4 envelopes you use in JANUARY 2020. Please remember to finish using your 2019 offertory envelopes before using the 2020 ones. Thank you.



Please note that the deadline for donations (included in the 2019 tax receipt) is **December 31, 2019**. Any donations **received after this date** will be counted towards your 2020 tax receipt.

## PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING

If you would rather make your regular offerings through Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG), kindly complete a PAG Form, which are available at the back of the Church with the envelopes, and return to the Office. Please note you still need a box of envelopes for the other Special Collections.

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